United Nations A/54/797

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 March 2000

Original: English

**Fifty-fourth session**
Agenda item 151 (a)
**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations**

# Support account for peacekeeping operations

## Report of the Secretary-General

*Summary*

The present report contains the financial performance report of the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

In its resolution 52/248 of 26 June 1998, the General Assembly authorized an amount of $34,400,000 for post and non-post requirements for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. Expenditures amounted to $32,821,600, resulting in an unutilized balance of $1,578,400. The unutilized balance is largely due to savings under staff costs.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the support account is set out in paragraph 21 of the present report.

00-34717 (E) 130400

# Contents


| | | Paragraphs | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| I. | Introduction | 1–2 | 3 |
| II. | Major activities during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 | 3–16 | 3 |
| III. | Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 | 17–20 | 5 |
| IV. | Action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session | 21 | 7 |
| Annexes | | | |
| I. | Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 by department/office | | 8 |
| II. | Supplementary information on significant variances | | 10 |
| III. | Authorized posts and vacancy situation | | 16 |

# I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/12 B of 8 June 1999.

2. The performance report provides information on the use of support account resources for the 12-month period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.

# II. Major activities during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

3. During the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacekeeping Financing Division and other units in the Department of Management as well as other departments and offices in the Secretariat that had been provided with support account resources provided backstopping for a total of 13 active peacekeeping operations with a total budget of some $604.8 million, inclusive of the cost of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy.

4. The Secretary-General, in his report dated 20 March 1998 on the support account (A/52/837 and Corr.1), requested a total of 106 additional posts for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997 on the phasing out of all gratis personnel provided by Governments. The Assembly, in its resolutions 52/248 and 53/12 A of 26 October 1998, subsequently approved the conversion of 42 gratis personnel posts, the establishment of 7 new posts and the redeployment of 6 posts from within the Secretariat to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In addition, one post was approved for the Administrative Law Unit of the Office of Human Resources Management in lieu of funds requested by the Secretary-General under general temporary assistance, and one post was approved for the Investigation Section of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The Assembly took note of the commitment and assurances of the Secretary-General that the recruitment process for the replacement of gratis personnel would be completed by 28 February 1999.

5. In June 1998 the Department of Peacekeeping Operations circulated 106 posts through internal and external vacancy announcements. Of the 106 posts, 55 were circulated exclusively to Member States for the nomination of active military and civilian police officers to be seconded from their Governments. The initial deadline for submission of applications was 30 June 1998. It was subsequently extended to 31 August 1998 in order to solicit the nomination of female candidates for the posts.

6. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/12 A, every effort was concentrated on finalizing the selection of candidates for the 55 additional authorized posts. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations was actively involved in the process of evaluating candidates and worked closely with the Office of Human Resources Management and the appointment and promotion bodies to finalize the selection process on an accelerated basis.

7. The recommendations of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations were submitted to the appointment and promotion bodies by mid-November 1998, and the reviews were finalized by mid-December. During the period from late December 1998 to the end of February 1999 the Office of Human Resources Management

forwarded offers of appointment to the successful candidates, and by mid-March the majority of the newly authorized posts were filled.

8. During the reporting period, further inroads were made concerning the treatment of death and disability claims. It is recalled that as at 19 May 1997 a backlog of 564 death and disability claims awaited processing, and that the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, requested the Secretary-General to submit to it quarterly reports on the progress made in clearing the backlog.

9. As indicated in the eighth quarterly report (A/C.5/53/66) to the General Assembly, covering the period ending 30 June 1999, the total number of new claims received after 19 May 1997 was 1,219 and the number of claims processed totalled 1,498, leaving 285 claims awaiting processing. Of this total, 47 claims had been received prior to 19 May 1997, and the balance of 238 were received later. It is envisaged that the remaining claims will be processed and the backlog eliminated by 30 June 2000.

10. While the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was able to speed up its processing of death and disability cases during the period, there was a corresponding increase in the workload of the Medical Services Division in the review and certification of those claims. As a result of a shortage of staff in the Division, claims were not processed as fast as they were received from the Field Administration and Logistics Division, resulting in the build-up of a substantial backlog. In order to allow the Division to process the backlog, the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/248, approved the request of the Secretary-General that provided the Division with $123,500 in general temporary assistance funds.

11. By the same resolution, the General Assembly also provided $159,000 in general temporary assistance funds to the Accounts Division to overcome the backlog situation of processing inter-office vouchers and reconciliation of statements in the Peacekeeping Accounts Section. As at 30 June 1999, sufficient progress had been made in dealing with this backlog, and the continuation of general temporary assistance resources was therefore not requested.

12. In its report on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 1999,[1] the Board of Auditors was pleased to note that the Administration had implemented previous recommendations regarding the monitoring and reconciliation of inter-office vouchers and that inter-office transactions pending processing in respect of peacekeeping operations had been significantly reduced, from a total debit balance of $24.3 million as at 30 June 1998 to $2.4 million as at 30 June 1999. Similarly, the Board noted that the Administration had reduced the total credit balance in respect of inter-office vouchers pending processing from $1.5 million as at 30 June 1998 to $1.3 million as at 30 June 1999.

13. During the reporting period, in response to observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Secretariat embarked on a number of new initiatives. The Peacekeeping Financing Division, in consultation with the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, implemented a self-evaluation mechanism designed to review the budgetary preparation and reporting process as well as to focus on the content, format and presentation of the performance reports and

proposed budgets for all peacekeeping missions. Two significant outcomes emerged from this joint exercise. First, the budget submission and review process was streamlined and provided for the first time direct participation of mission chief administrative officers, who were brought to Headquarters specifically for this task. In addition, greater weight and emphasis was placed on field submissions. Subsequent feedback received from chief administrative officers indicated that they felt they had more ownership of and accountability for their budgets and also had a better understanding of how the budget review process worked. The content, format and presentation of the Secretary-General's performance reports for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 and proposed budgets for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 for the individual peacekeeping operations were further improved during this period, as was the timeliness of the submission to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly. This was reflected in terms of better explanations of expenditures incurred and more realistic and better-justified budget estimates. Moreover, the reports were streamlined, shortened and made more user-friendly. The Advisory Committee welcomed the efforts made by the Secretariat for the improvements made to the revised peacekeeping budget reports and commended the Secretariat for those improvements (A/53/895, para. 8).

14. A second, similar review was conducted from April to June 1999. The conclusions from this exercise have been translated into further modest refinements to the improvements referred to above.

15. Further reforms took place during the reporting period in the Procurement Division, most notably in the increased use of institutional contract agreements. Procurement for United Nations peacekeeping operations under institutional contracts has led to significant savings under individual mission budgets resulting from lower unit prices for large-volume items such as vehicles and electronic data-processing equipment.

16. Towards the latter half of the reporting period, the Secretary-General was faced with the challenge of planning for what were at the time potential new and expanding peacekeeping missions in East Timor, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The tasks involved in the planning process for the possible start-up of those missions led to a significant surge in the work of the Secretariat during that period, particularly in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

## III. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

17. By its resolution 52/248 the General Assembly approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 support account resources amounting to $34,400,000 for post and non-post requirements. The Assembly approved a total staffing establishment of 400 posts. A 5 per cent vacancy turnover factor was applied on existing posts, while a 50 per cent vacancy turnover factor was used for all new authorized posts. The actual average vacancy rate experienced during the period was 13 per cent.

18. Table 1 below provides summary information on the use of support account resources by main object of expenditure during the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. A breakdown of expenditures by department/office is provided in annex I. Supplementary information on the expenditures is provided in annex II.

19. As shown in table 1, total expenditures for the period amounted to $32,821,600, resulting in an unutilized balance of $1,578,400. The unutilized balance was largely the result of savings under staff costs arising from the higher post vacancy rate than budgeted and from variances between standard cost and actual costs experienced.

Table 1
**Summary of expenditures by main object of expenditure for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999**

| *Object of expenditure* | *(1) Apportionment* | *(2) Expenditure* | *(3) = (1-2) Variance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Posts | 30 843 700 | 29 562 800 | 1 278 500 |
| General temporary assistance | 562 000 | 426 800 | 135 200 |
| Consultants | 39 000 | - | 39 000 |
| Overtime | 154 500 | 167 300 | (12 800) |
| Official travel | 120 000 | 135 900 | (15 900) |
| Training | 400 000 | 400 000 | - |
| Common services | 1 864 900 | 1 753 300 | 111 600 |
| Data-processing equipment | 415 900 | 375 500 | 40 400 |
| **Total** | **34 400 000** | **32 821 600** | **1 578 400** |

20. Information on the number of posts authorized and the vacancy situation is provided in table 2 and annex III.

Table 2
**Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for authorized posts for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999**

| *Personnel category* | *Authorized strength* | *Actual strength (average)* | *Vacancy rate (percentage)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Support account posts | 400 | 347.8 | 13.0 |

# IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

**21. The action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session is a decision to apply the unencumbered balance of $1,578,400, interest income of $597,000 and miscellaneous income of $4,000 ($601,000 in total) to support account requirements for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001.**

*Notes*

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/54/5), vol. II, chap. 2, para. 18.

# Annex I

## Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 by department/office

*(United States dollars)*

| *Category of expenditure* | *(1) Approved appropriation* | *(2) Expenditure* | *(3) = (1 - 2) Variance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Executive Office of the Secretary-General | | | |
| Posts | 342 100 | 317 600 | 24 500 |
| Overtime | 2 500 | 6 000 | (3 500) |
| Common services | 3 000 | - | 3 000 |
| **Total, line 1** | **347 600** | **323 600** | **24 000** |
| 2. Office of Internal Oversight Services | | | |
| Posts | 1 186 600 | 1 056 900 | 129 700 |
| Official travel | 20 000 | 21 200 | (1 200) |
| Common services | 11 000 | 3 300 | 7 700 |
| **Total, line 2** | **1 217 600** | **1 081 400** | **136 200** |
| 3. Office of Legal Affairs | | | |
| Posts | 350 000 | 283 900 | 66 100 |
| Common services | 5 000 | - | 5 000 |
| **Total, line 3** | **355 000** | **283 900** | **638 900** |
| 4. Department of Peacekeeping Operations | | | |
| Posts | 20 133 900 | 19 697 000 | 436 900 |
| General temporary assistance | 100 000 | 127 200 | (27 200) |
| Consultants | 39 000 | - | 39 000 |
| Overtime | 120 000 | 127 300 | (7 300) |
| Official travel | 80 000 | 95 100 | (15 100) |
| Training | 400 000 | 400 000 | - |
| Data-processing equipment | 415 900 | 375 500 | 40 400 |
| Common services | 533 900 | 437 700 | 96 200 |
| **Total, line 4** | **21 822 700** | **21 259 800** | **562 900** |
| 5. Department of Management | | | |
| (a) Office of the Under-Secretary-General | | | |
| Posts | 493 600 | 450 100 | 43 500 |
| General temporary assistance | 56 000 | 56 000 | - |
| Overtime | - | 3 000 | (3 000) |
| Common services | 1 312 000 | 1 312 300 | (300) |
| **Subtotal** | **1 861 600** | **1 821 400** | **40 200** |

| *Category of expenditure* | *(1) Approved appropriation* | *(2) Expenditure* | *(3) = (1 - 2) Variance* |
|---|---|---|---|
| (b) Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts | | | |
| Posts | 4 466 400 | 4 077 200 | 389 200 |
| Overtime | 17 000 | 13 700 | 3 300 |
| General temporary assistance | 159 000 | 126 900 | 32 100 |
| Official travel | 20 000 | 12 000 | 8 000 |
| **Subtotal** | **4 662 400** | **4 229 800** | **432 600** |
| (c) Office of Human Resources Management | | | |
| Posts | 1 024 100 | 975 200 | 48 900 |
| General temporary assistance | 247 000 | 116 700 | 130 300 |
| Overtime | 5 000 | 4 600 | 400 |
| Official travel | - | 2 400 | (2 400) |
| **Subtotal** | **1 276 100** | **1 098 900** | **177 200** |
| (d) Office of Central Support Services | | | |
| Posts | 2 729 400 | 2 595 300 | 134 100 |
| Overtime | 10 000 | 12 700 | (2 700) |
| Official travel | - | 5 200 | (5 200) |
| **Subtotal** | **2 739 400** | **2 613 200** | **126 200** |
| **Total, line 5** | **10 539 500** | **9 763 300** | **776 200** |
| 6. Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator | | | |
| Posts | 117 600 | 109 600 | 8 000 |
| **Total, line 6** | **117 600** | **109 600** | **8 000** |
| **Total, lines 1-6** | **34 400 000** | **32 821 600** | **1 578 400** |

# Annex II

## Supplementary information on significant variances

### 1. Executive Office of the Secretary-General

*Posts: $24,500 variance*

1. Provision was made for the continuation of three posts in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General: one D-2 (Director), one P-5 (Senior Political Affairs Officer) and one General Service (Secretary). The Office experienced an average vacancy rate of 16.7 per cent for posts during the period, resulting in unutilized resources of $24,500.

*Overtime: ($3,500) variance*

2. A provision of $2,500 was made to cover overtime requirements directly attributable to the workload of the Executive Office pertaining to the backstopping of new and existing peacekeeping operations at Headquarters. Actual expenditures were higher than budgeted as a result of the additional workload related to the planning and negotiation of four potential missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Kosovo and East Timor, resulting in over-expenditure of $3,500.

*Common services: $3,000 variance*

3. During the period, provision was made to cover the cost of telephone rental and local telephone charges ($1,800) and office supplies ($1,200) on the basis of standard costs. However, no expenditures were recorded during the period, resulting in the unutilized balance.

### 2. Office of Internal Oversight Services

*Posts: $129,700 variance*

4. Resources in the amount of $1,186,600 were provided to cover the cost of continuing 11 posts in the Office of Internal Oversight Services: one P-5 (Senior Auditor, six P-4 (Auditors), three P-3 (Auditors), and one General Service (Secretary), as well as provision for one new P-4 post (Investigation Officer), which was calculated at 50 per cent of the standard cost. Owing to delays in the recruitment of qualified staff to fill the vacant posts, the office experienced an average vacancy rate of 15.3 per cent during the period, which resulted in unutilized resources of $129,700 under this heading.

*Official travel: ($1,200) variance*

5. Provision was made in the amount of $20,000 for investigative travel by staff in the Investigations Section. Actual expenditures were slightly higher because of higher airfares than budgeted, resulting in over-expenditure of $1,200.

*Common services: $7,700 variance*

6. Resources in the amount of $11,000 were provided to cover the cost of telephone rental and local telephone charges ($6,600) and office supplies ($4,400). Expenditures of $3,300 were recorded during the period, resulting in the unutilized balance reported.

## 3. Office of Legal Affairs

*Posts: $66,100 variance*

7. An amount of $350,000 was provided for the maintenance of three Legal Officer posts (one P-5, one P-4 and one P-3) in the Office of Legal Affairs. The unutilized balance of $66,100 was due to lower salaries and common staff costs than budgeted.

*Common services: $5,000 variance*

8. Provision was made to cover the costs of telephone rental and local telephone charges ($3,000) and office supplies ($2,000). No expenditures were recorded during the period, resulting in the unutilized balance.

## 4. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

*Posts: $436,900 variance*

9. Resources in the amount of $20,133,900 were provided to cover the cost of continuing 224 posts as well as creating 55 new posts that were calculated at 50 per cent of standard costs. As a result of delays in recruiting staff to fill the new posts as well as delayed replacement of staff on peacekeeping mission assignment, the Department experienced an average vacancy rate of 14.0 per cent during the period, resulting in unutilized resources of $436,900.

*General temporary assistance: ($27,200) variance*

10. A provision in the amount of $100,000 was made to temporarily replace staff on maternity or extended sick leave and to meet peak workload demands. However, the increased workload associated with the four potential missions in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, East Timor and Kosovo resulted in the utilization of additional general temporary assistance resources.

*Consultants: $39,000 variance*

11. The unutilized balance of $39,000 was to fund two information and management system projects. These projects were not implemented because wider reviews are now under way within the Secretariat concerning the use and application of information technology and tools. Since the proposed new information and management systems would have to be compatible with the new information platforms, the above-mentioned projects have been put on hold pending further action on the decision to employ this new technology.

*Overtime: ($7,300) variance*

12. Provision of $120,000 was made to meet the overtime requirements of the Department. The unbudgeted expenditure was required to meet the increased workload referred to in paragraph 10 above.

*Official travel: ($15,100) variance*

13. Resources in the amount of $80,000 were provided for official travel of staff for the period. The unbudgeted expenditure resulted in part from the unbudgeted travel of two staff members to accompany the Secretary-General on the second part of his trip to North Africa in November 1998.

*Data-processing equipment: $40,400 variance*

14. Provision in the amount of $415,900 was made for the replacement and upgrading of the Department's data-processing hardware, software and networks, as well as the maintenance of existing equipment. The unutilized balance of $40,400 was the result of the purchase of one linear back-up tape drive instead of the three budgeted ($16,000) and reduced maintenance costs as a result of better prices obtained through global systems contracts ($24,400).

*Common services: $96,200 variance*

15. During the period, $533,900 was provided for common services covering maintenance and rental of office equipment, office supplies and communication charges on the basis of standard costs for all support account posts in the Department. Actual expenditures totalled $437,700, as communication and office supply costs for the period were lower than estimated, resulting in an unutilized balance of $96,200.

## 5. Department of Management

### (a) Office of the Under-Secretary-General

*Posts: $43,500 variance*

16. Provision was made for the continuation of two posts in the Contributions Service: one P-4 (Contributions Officer) and one General Service (Clerk); and four posts in the Treasury: one P-4 (Investment Officer), one P-3 (Deputy Cashier) and two General Service (Clerks). All posts were fully encumbered during the period. Actual expenditures for salaries and common staff costs were lower than budgeted, resulting in an unutilized balance of $43,500.

*Overtime: ($3,000) variance*

17. No provision was made for overtime during the period. The unbudgeted expenditure was required to meet an increase in the workload of the Treasury during the period.

*Common services: ($300) variance*

18. Total resources of $1,312,000 were provided for common services, covering rental of premises, maintenance and rental of office equipment, purchase of office supplies and communication charges on the basis of standard costs for all support account posts in the Department. The funds were centrally allocated to the Executive Office. Expenditures were slightly higher under office supplies than budgeted, resulting in additional requirements of $300.

**(b) Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts**

*Posts: $389,200 variance*

19. Provision was made in the amount of $4,466,400 for the continuation of 32 posts in the Peacekeeping Financing Division and 18 posts in the Accounts Division. As a result of delays in the recruitment of staff to fill vacant posts as well as the delayed replacement of staff on peacekeeping mission assignment, the Office experienced an average vacancy rate of 10.9 per cent during the reporting period, resulting in an unutilized balance of $389,200 under this heading.

*Overtime: $3,300 variance*

20. Provisions of $15,000 and $2,000 were made for overtime in periods of peak workload for the Accounts Division and the Peacekeeping Financing Division respectively. Actual requirements for both divisions were lower than budgeted, resulting in an unutilized balance of $3,300.

*General temporary assistance: $32,100 variance*

21. An amount of $159,000 was provided for general temporary assistance to overcome the backlog in the processing of inter-office vouchers and bank reconciliations in the Accounts Division. The requirements were less than budgeted, resulting in an unutilized balance of $32,100.

*Official travel: $8,000 variance*

22. Provision of $20,000 was made to enable budget officers in the Peacekeeping Financing Division to visit missions for which they were responsible so that they would have first-hand experience and understanding of operational conditions and actual requirements. Due to exigencies of work, fewer trips than planned were undertaken, resulting in the unutilized balance reported.

**(c) Office of Human Resources Management**

*Posts: $48,900 variance*

23. Resources in the amount of $1,024,100 were provided for the continuation of two posts (one P-4 and one General Service) in the Specialist Services Division, six posts (two P-4, one P-3 and three General Service) in the Operational Services Division and four posts (one P-5, one P-4 and two General Service) in the Medical Services Division. While the Specialist Services Division and the Medical Services Division both had full incumbency, the Operational Services Division had an average vacancy rate of 7 per cent for the period. The effect of vacancies in the

Office together with lower expenditures than budgeted under common staff costs contributed to the savings reported under this heading.

*General temporary assistance: $130,300 variance*

24. Provision in the amount of $247,000 was requested for clearing the backlog pertaining to reimbursement for medical compensation cases and for death and disability claims in the Medical Services Division ($123,500) and for clearing the backlog related to administrative review and peacekeeping-related disciplinary cases in the Administrative Law Unit ($123,500). The unutilized balance of $130,300 was due to the decision by the General Assembly to establish a P-4 post for the Administrative Law Unit in lieu of the general temporary assistance requested ($123,500) and lower requirements for the Medical Services Division than budgeted ($6,800).

*Overtime: $400 variance*

25. A provision of $5,000 was made to cover periods of peak workload in the Office. The requirement for overtime was slightly less than budgeted, resulting in savings of $400.

*Official travel: ($2,400) variance*

26. The unbudgeted expenditure of $2,400 relates to the travel of a staff member in the Medical Services Division to the fifteenth meeting of the Inter-Agency Advisory Group on AIDS, held in Geneva in June 1999, which was incorrectly charged to the support account. While the actual travel costs were charged to another account, the obligation was not liquidated prior to the closing of the 30 June 1999 year-end accounts.

**(d) Office of Central Support Services**

*Posts: $134,100 variance*

27. An amount of $2,729,400 was provided for the continuation of two General Service posts in the Travel and Transportation Service, one General Service post in the Mail Operations Unit, one P-2 post in the Information Technology Services Division and 29 posts (1 P-5, 8 P-4, 9 P-3 and 11 General Service) in the Procurement Division. The unutilized balance of $134,100 was due mainly to the vacancies in the Procurement Division, which contributed to an overall vacancy rate of 12.5 per cent and to lower expenditures under common staff costs than budgeted.

*Overtime: ($2,700) variance*

28. A provision of $10,000 was made to cover periods of peak workload in the Procurement Division. The actual requirement was slightly higher than budgeted, resulting in an over-expenditure of $2,700.

*Official travel: ($5,200) variance*

29. The unbudgeted expenditure relates to the travel of a communication support staff member from the Office of Central Support Services who accompanied the

Secretary-General on his trip to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in July 1998, which was erroneously charged to the Procurement Division.

## 6. Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator

*Posts: $8,000 variance*

30. Resources in the amount of $117,600 provided for the cost of one P-4 post. The post was fully encumbered during the period. The actual expenditures for common staff costs were lower than budgeted, resulting in an unutilized balance of $8,000.

# Annex III

## Authorized posts and vacancy situation

**Executive Office of the Secretary-General**

| | | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | Authorized level | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-2/P-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **2** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **1** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **Total** | **3** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **1** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **1** |

**Office of Internal Oversight Services**

| | | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | Authorized level | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| P-3 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| P-2/P-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **11** | **-** | **2** | **2** | **3** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **2** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **1** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **Total** | **12** | **-** | **2** | **2** | **3** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **2** | **2** | **1** | **1** | **1** |

**Office of Legal Affairs**

| | Authorized level | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| P-4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-2/P-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **3** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **1** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **3** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | **1** |

**Department of Peacekeeping Operations**

| | Authorized level | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | 8 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - |
| P-5 | 18 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| P-4[a] | 60 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 26 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 11 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 9 |
| P-3[a] | 51 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 26 | 29 | 24 | 20 | 14 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 5 |
| P-2/P-1 | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **142** | **14** | **15** | **14** | **58** | **60** | **55** | **51** | **30** | **28** | **24** | **20** | **19** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | 7 | - | - | - | 5 | 4 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Other level | 130 | 5 | - | 6 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 9 |
| **Subtotal** | **137** | **5** | - | **6** | **9** | **8** | **9** | **8** | **7** | **4** | **7** | **6** | **12** |
| **Total** | **279** | **19** | **15** | **20** | **67** | **68** | **64** | **59** | **37** | **32** | **31** | **26** | **31** |

**Department of Management**

*Office of the Under-Secretary-General*

| | | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | Authorized level | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-2/P-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **3** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **3** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **6** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

*Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts*

| | | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | Authorized level | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| P-5 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4 | 12 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| P-3 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| P-2/P-1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **29** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **5** | **6** | **6** | **7** | **7** | **7** | **6** | **4** | **6** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | 20 | - | - | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **21** | - | - | - | **4** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **50** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **9** | **6** | **6** | **7** | **7** | **7** | **6** | **4** | **6** |

*Office of Human Resources Management*

| | | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | Authorized level | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4[a] | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| P-3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| P-2/P-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **7** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **1** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **6** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **Total** | **13** | **1** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **-** | **1** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **1** |

*Office of Central Support Services*

| | | Vacancies | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1998 | | | | | | 1999 | | | | | |
| | Authorized level | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4 | 9 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| P-3 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| P-2/P-1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Subtotal** | **20** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **4** | **5** | **5** | **5** | **4** | **5** | **5** |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | 14 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **14** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **1** | **-** | **1** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
| **Total** | **34** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **4** | **6** | **5** | **6** | **4** | **5** | **5** |

**Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator**

| | | *Vacancies* | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | *1998* | | | | | | *1999* | | | | | |
| | *Authorized level* | *Jul* | *Aug* | *Sep* | *Oct* | *Nov* | *Dec* | *Jan* | *Feb* | *Mar* | *Apr* | *May* | *Jun* |
| **Professional category and above** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| USG | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| D-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| P-2/P-1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **1** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **General Service category** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Other level | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Subtotal** | **-** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **1** | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

[a] Increase in authorized posts.

UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/798
S/2000/218
17 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 50
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Afghanistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of a letter dated 15 March 2000 addressed to you by A. Abdullah, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 50, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ravan FARHÂDI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-34687 (E) 180300

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Annex

Letter dated 15 March 2000 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan to the Secretary-General

As you are well aware, responding positively to the demand for peace talks made by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Islamic State of Afghanistan, on 8 March 2000, attended in good faith the two-day peace talks, the first in a series, hosted by the OIC in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which were also attended by your Special Representative for Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell.

The OIC delegation, attending separate meetings and discussing different issues with the two parties in Jeddah, laid special emphasis on the need for observing a moratorium on the fighting, citing the sanctity and importance of the approaching advent of the Hajj and the Eid al-Adha. The suggestion, though not initialled, was embraced unilaterally and with no preconditions by the delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

It is worth recalling that the Jeddah meeting came only days after the Taliban mercenaries had launched a renewed offensive, at which the Security Council on 3 March expressed its dismay and recalled the repeated demands by the Council that the Afghan parties cease the fighting and resume negotiations under United Nations auspices, without delay and preconditions, in full compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Council.

Against this background, however, the Taliban mercenaries, evidently tasked by the ruling Pakistani ISI, appear to have been intent on pursuing their military option, for their unabated aerial and ground attacks on the Government-held territories have continued, to date.

Below is a brief record of the Pakistani-Taliban military operations which have taken place since the Jeddah meeting:

(a) 10 March, 6 a.m. Afghanistan standard time (AST):

Pakistani-Taliban forces attacked northern Salang. The attack was repulsed within the course of a two-hour battle. Attackers sustained 60 casualties and left behind seven mortal remains;

(b) 11 March, 4 a.m. AST:

The Pakistani-Taliban troops launched a multipronged attack on Surkh-Sang, Tamaam-Keraan, Zir Jallah, Maktab-e-Sartal, Rabeen, Kewch, and Bajgah areas around Dara-i-Suff, south-west of the province of Samangan, making some advances. The Government forces repelled the mercenaries from the areas later in the day;

(c) 13 March, 7-9 a.m. AST:

An attack by the Pakistani-Taliban on Ailam Bourka was pushed back;

(d) 14 March, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. AST:

The Pakistani-Taliban mounted a cohesive attack on northern Salang, infiltrating the front lines. The offensive was forcefully smashed later the same day.

The ongoing intermittent onslaughts by the Pakistani-Taliban are believed to herald an up-coming all-out offensive by the Pakistani-Taliban, according to a battle plan discussed on 10 March at a joint meeting between the Taliban field commanders and a visiting senior Pakistani military corps in Kunduz province, intercepted by the State security services.

(Signed) A. ABDULLAH
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
Islamic State of Afghanistan

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